

CHURCH NOTICES- Summer 2023

Deaths

Christine McCort Brodick 24th April
Margaret Harvie Brodick 25th May

Dates for your Diary

Summer Fayre Many thanks go to all those who contributed in any way to the success of the Summer Fete which raised £2,235.30.

Sacrament of Holy Communion Sunday August 6th
Please let your elder know if you require transport.

World Vision The money from the Sunday/Tea Coffee mornings on August 27th September 24th and October 29th will be donated to World Vision.

Taize Service Holy Cross Church August 3rd, September 7th and October 5th all at 3pm.

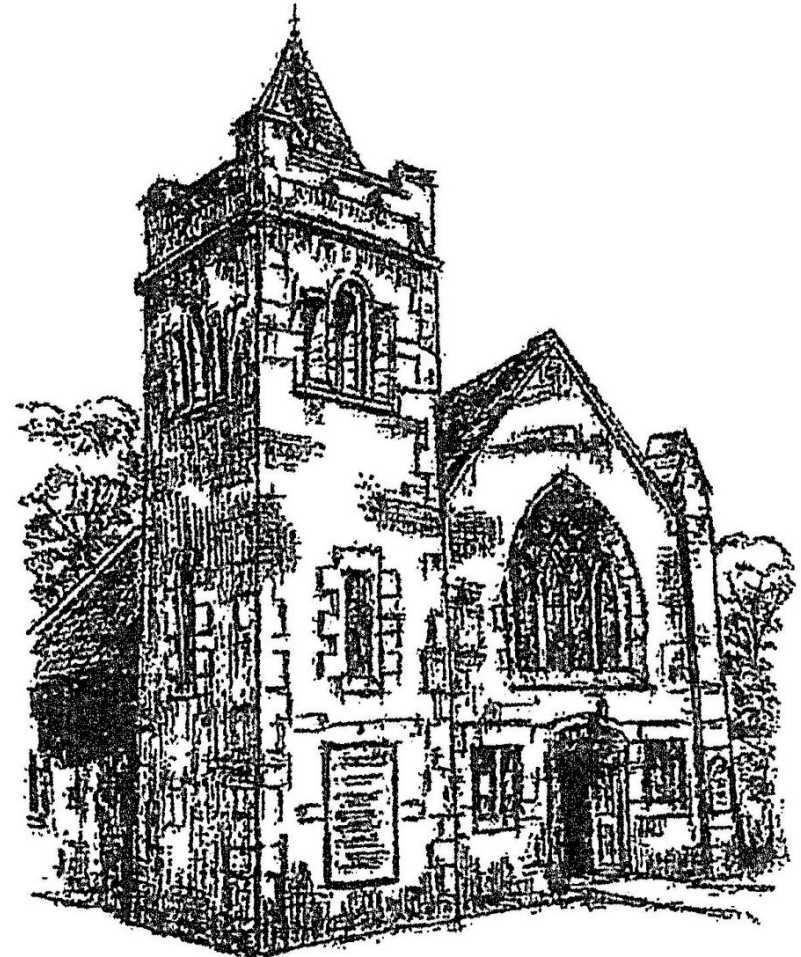
Service of Prayers Whiting Bay Church August 28th September 25th and October 30th all at 2pm.

Services of Prayers for Health and Healing Dates will be announced in church.

Highland Games Tearoom, Ormidale Park, Saturday 5th August. Donations of sandwiches, baking and help in the tearoom for short spells during the day would be much appreciated.

St Bride's Church Brodick

August Newsletter



Summer 2023

Dear Everyone,

Its summertime! It is only mid-June but already we have seen an influx of visitors to our beautiful island, helped by the spell of hot, dry, and sunny weather. I occasionally had to pinch myself to remind me that I was on Arran!

What an amazing number of events take place at this time of the year, some organised specifically for our visitors but there are also those events which are locally driven, like the Farmers Show and Brodick Highland Games.

Apart from the livestock, one of the main attractions at the Farmers Show is the vintage tractor section, which has grown and grown over the years. The variety of smells attached to the different sections of the show underlined where you were standing, from the sheep to the cattle to the horses to the dogs – each with their distinctive aroma. And then the tractors with their completely different but equally obvious smell.

And then there is the Highland Games. For the Clarke family there were two events of importance. The highland dancing competition and the massed pipe bands. The sound of the Scottish music being both distinctive and evocative.

Each and both of these events were soon over, but the memories last.

I used to be a part of the British Legion contingent here on Arran. We would hear our members individual memories of the war which were amazing and fascinating but I would also hear the person's spouse mutter something like "Not again," having heard it all many times before.

Memory is a funny thing. As we get older it is easier to remember things from the past than what we did yesterday. So it is good to help refresh the memory with a note in a diary.

God has a phenomenal memory and remembers everything about each and every one of us. Psalm 139 (hymn CH4 97), which begins with "You have searched me, LORD, and you know me....", extols God's complete knowledge and care for each of us.

At Jesus last meal, before He was crucified, He gave His disciples bread and wine in remembrance of Him. The bread and wine being symbols of His body and blood. This remembrance has come down through the centuries to us. It has never been forgotten and is unchanging. God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, is remembered by us as He remembers us. How fortunate we are.

May God be with you always and in all ways.

Liz

Editor's Remarks

We are once again well into the summer. At the start of the season, we had a wonderful few weeks of glorious sunshine with blue skies and long hot sunny days but alas it was not to last and we have reverted to our more usual summer weather of sunshine, wind and rain all sometimes in the space of the same day. Island life goes on however despite the weather with the usual influx of visitors arriving, as long as the ferries run, to enjoy the many wonders Arran has to offer.

It is with much sadness that I have to report that Liz Lawrie is leaving the island. She has been an elder at St Bride's for many years and has served as Session Clerk for the last six of them. Our heartfelt thanks to Liz for all her hard work and dedicated service to the church. She is going to be hugely missed by all her friends and neighbours on the island. We wish her well and hope she keeps in touch.

As always, my thanks to all who have contributed to this edition of the magazine with special thanks to Sylvia who has very kindly printed it for us. If you would like to submit something to the magazine I can be contacted on 01770 303579 or sheenamcl4@gmail.com

Property Report

The Certification of the electrical systems in the church has been completed and I am now awaiting the report and details of any essential work that will be required. We have discovered a cloth covered electric wire which we assume is the original wiring from when the church was built and this will require attention. We have also had bulbs replaced in the church which takes us closer to replacing all bulbs with LED bulbs. The organ has again been tuned.

Colin MacKenzie

BEHIND THE SCENES AT ARRAN CHURCHES TOGETHER FOOD BANK

Written by Fiona Borland

Food banks are so often in the news – more and more people are having to rely on them because of the increasing costs of, well, everything. In mainland UK the best known organisation providing food banks is the Trussell Trust – there are 1300 over the country. But here on Arran, the Food Bank has a different origin and practice.

It began in 2011 when Angus Adamson, then minister at St Bride's, Brodick, had a phone call at Christmas. It was from a person concerned because a neighbouring family did not have enough to eat while the rest of the community seemed to be feasting. This prompted him to set up the Arran Churches Together Food Bank, a long title for a rudimentary but enthusiastic enterprise with the determined aim of eradicating entirely preventable hunger. Angus was joined by Helen Knight, Chris Black and Vivian Haig, who loaned her garage as a store. Without any easily identifiable premises for the Food Bank, Angus encouraged the Kirk Session and Board at Brodick to give it a home.

At first the churches in ACT collected tins and packeted food and dropped them off in the vestibule at St Bride's. (Margaret Green added this task to the many she carried out for our church and every Sunday Elizabeth would mention the Food Bank in the intimations.) Turned out there was a bit of a clutter at the door of Brodick Church, too much pasta and not enough toilet rolls! So step forward Susan Dobson and Ann Hart, shortly joined by Catriona Smith and Anne McKay, all members at Brodick and determined to make the Food Bank more efficient and what's more, responsive to the needs of the community.

I spoke to Susan, Ann and Catriona to find out what happens behind the scenes. First of all, the principle underpinning the Food Bank – Angus's principle – was that it should be available 24/7 and there should be no need for a referral letter. This is quite different from the situation on the mainland, where food banks are open only when volunteers can be present, and people seeking help must be referred by a healthcare or social services professional. There can be a certain lack of dignity in this arrangement and our Food Bank operates on a basis of anonymity.

The volunteers do not know who comes or when. So, how does it work? Well, food comes from what's donated by the Arran community who continue to be so very generous, placing items in the

Foodbank basket at the checkouts in the big Co. (The Co provides the basket, the food is given by you and me.) Plus ACT sometimes gives money collected at services, Eco Savvy runs raffles at the Farmers' Markets, the Arran Singers have donated profits from concerts, individuals give money or in some cases have a standing order for regular giving. Then the three musketeers – one has moved away – have a rota for emptying the basket in the big Co, usually daily, and take it to the store, kept in the transept at Brodick Church. From there they stock the Food Bank. It is situated in the vestibule of the church and easily available to anyone coming to the door. It's always open! There's a certain number of each type of foodstuff on display and this gets topped up as needed. Tins, packets and cartons – anything that will last is welcomed.

Usage for the Food Bank varies, but is normally around 1600 items a month. Susan, Ann and Catriona spend about £900 in that period to add to what's been given through the Co-op basket – they try to ensure that a good range of foods, toiletries and cleaning materials are at the door of the church so people can help themselves. ACT's Treasurer, Kate Jenks, reimburses Susan, Ann and Catriona for what they've spent and all four keep in touch by WhatsApp.

Kate also administers ACT's Fuel Fund. If someone has difficulty paying for gas or electricity, coal or logs, Kate can be contacted on 07760289700 and she will discuss in confidence how to help.

So how can we church members help? Well, by putting items regularly in the basket at the Co, by giving money and by making the Food Bank known to any person needing to use it. Susan says to remember that people using the Food Bank may not have good cooking facilities and so please think about food that can be eaten cold, or that's easily heated up. Longlife food especially welcome. And thanks to Susan, Ann and Catriona for all they do on behalf of the churches on Arran to help fulfil Angus's aim of

No More Hunger on Arran.

Blythswood Care

Christmas Shoebox Appeal 2023

The Arran Shoebox Appeal team have had word from Blythswood Care that they will shortly be launching the 2023 Christmas Shoebox appeal. Brodick church will, as usual, be acting as the collection point for filled shoeboxes. Last year's appeal was very successful with 97 filled boxes being sent from the island along with £549 in gift aid and donations.

This year there are again three ways in which you may wish to participate:

1. To fill a shoebox with a selection of the contents listed on the information leaflet (which should be with you by September).
2. To donate 'loose' items which can be added to shoeboxes either here or on the mainland.
3. To make a monetary contribution of any sum.

In addition, we will again provide a collection box in the vestibule of the church to receive any loose donations of goods.

Last year there were 89,000 filled shoeboxes and bags sent off to Eastern Europe from this country. These made a huge impact on the recipients, many of whom live in such dire poverty that this gift, from an unknown person, not only brings smiles, but greatly improves their lives.

This is a very worthwhile cause and every donation – large or small – will be most gratefully received.

Further information on this appeal can be found at blythswood.org/shoeboxappeal

Calling all Knitters

The team would be grateful for any knitted hats, scarves and gloves for children or adults which can be used to make up extra boxes.

Thank you once again for your continued support.

The Shoebox Team

Treasurers Report

Income from January to June 2023 was, Offerings £12,785 Donations £3,752 Gift Aid refund for the period July 2022 to March 2023 £5,011 giving a total income of £21,548. Expenses were £19,295.

We have reserves as follows

General Fund: £32,994

Fabric Fund: £246

Organ Fund: £2,099

Flower Fund: £463

A very successful Summer Fete was held on Saturday 22nd July. Many thanks to everyone who helped in any way to raise the great amount of £2,235.

The next fundraiser will be the tea room at the Highland Games on the 5th August. If you can spare an hour or so to help on the day or can donate sandwiches or baking, please contact me on 302613 or add your name to the lists which are on the hall notice board.

World Vision

I am pleased to report that the donations received at the after-church fellowship held on the last Sunday of each month, which replaced the monthly coffee mornings, are covering our support of Adam and Edwin. It was both their birthdays recently and cards were sent with messages of encouragement from us. Progress reports and photos of both Edwin and Adam are displayed in the church hall. Many thanks to all who support this worthy cause.

Sylvia Alison

Congregational Treasurer

St Bride's Ladies

The committee will be meeting on the 30th August to discuss the programme for the 2023-24 session.

We will need speakers for some of the meetings, so if you or someone you know would like to come along and share with us, please let me know. Or do you have an idea for a 'fun' afternoon?

Meetings are held every second Monday at 2pm from October to March.

Sylvia Alison

President.